

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 25, 27, and 29-31 are pending in the present application, Claims 23, 24, and 32 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

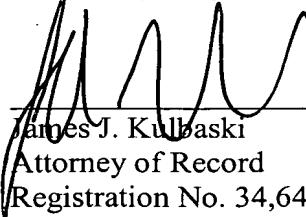
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 23, 24, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as anticipated by Chauvel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,855, hereinafter Chauvel) in view of Okada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,870, hereinafter Okada), and further in view of Lenihan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,843); and Claims 25, 27 and 29-31 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 25, 27, and 29-31. In light of this indication, rejected Claims 23, 24, and 32 are canceled.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Scott A. McKeown
Registration No. 42,866